

Amendments to the Abstract

Please replace the Abstract on page 51 with the following amended Abstract:

An information gathering facility is provided to gather information on the state of a computer system. The information gathering facility which includes a dictionary file data structure having a plurality of inquiries for ascertaining state information on the a computer system. The plurality of inquiries are organized into at least one subject group. Each subject group is directed to a different piece of the state information. At least one group has having multiple records of inquiry. These multiple records of inquiry are processed such that if a condition of one record is satisfied then processing terminates for the group, otherwise processing proceeds to a next record and continues until a condition of one of the records of the group is satisfied or until all records have been processed. One or more of the plurality of inquiries comprise instructions which output a result when a condition of the instruction is satisfied. Thus, the state information to be output is defined by the results contained within the instructions of the dictionary file itself.